

RAZED BY FLAMES

TWELVE HOTELS AT ATLANTIC CITY CONVERTED INTO ASHES.

Score of Small Buildings Adjoining the Board Walk Also Wiped Out of Existence.

LOSS POSSIBLY OVER \$750,000

DOZEN PERSONS SLIGHTLY BURNED, BUT NO LIVES WERE LOST.

Little Insurance, Because the Rate of 5 Per Cent. Was Deemed Excessive by Owners.

MILITIA PLACED ON GUARD

SEVERAL PERSONS ARRESTED FOR LOOTING THE SALVAGE.

Guests of the Hotels Able to Save Most of Their Valuables—Aid Summoned from Philadelphia.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., April 3.—Twelve hotels and more than a score of small buildings adjoining the board walk, which is built along the ocean edge, were destroyed to-day by a fire which swept the beach front for two blocks, from Illinois avenue to New York avenue. The loss, it is believed, will exceed \$750,000. In this respect the conflagration is the most disastrous that has ever visited this city. The loss will be only partly covered by insurance, as the rate of 5 per cent. charged by insurance companies on property here is regarded as almost prohibitive. Fortunately, no lives were sacrificed, though probably a dozen persons were slightly injured and burned during the progress of the fire. It was reported early in the afternoon that six men had perished in the flames, but the rumor was without foundation.

The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is said to have started at either Brady's baths or the Tarleton Hotel, which adjoins the baths at Illinois avenue and the board walk. The city to-night is guarded by a company of militia, who were requested by the municipal authorities to aid the police in the prevention of looting. About a dozen men were arrested during the day for robbery.

The hotels destroyed and their estimated losses are: The Luray and Annex, the latter formerly known as the Norwood, owned by J. S. White & Son, \$125,000; the New Holland, Mrs. M. J. Lee, \$30,000; Stratford, Arnold W. Waldner, \$40,000; Berkeley, Brew Bros., \$50,000; Bryn Mawr, J. & E. Koffer, \$25,000; Stickney, Mrs. L. V. Stickney, \$20,000; Eyard, James T. Gorman, \$20,000; Rio Grande, J. P. Kilpatrick, \$20,000; Mervine, J. Eels, \$20,000; Academy Hotel and Academy of Music, Charles Frailing, \$25,000; Windsor, G. Jason Waters (partly destroyed), \$25,000.

Charles W. Keeler, who conducted a drug store on the board walk at Kentucky avenue, estimates his loss at \$50,000, and Victor Freisinger, proprietor of an art store at St. James place and the board walk, says his loss is \$50,000. Other victims whose losses range from \$5,000 to \$10,000 are: James A. Brady, bathhouse; David John, druggist; Nabass & Kazzar, Oriental goods; Haines, florist; Shimamura & Co., Japanese novelties; China Hop Hing, Chinese novelties; John H. Flett, art store; Partridge & Richardson, millinery and dry goods; Woman's Exchange; E. P. Quinn, hair dresser; M. Moyer & Bro., jewelry; Richard Blinder, barber. In addition to the foregoing there were numerous other smaller booths and several cottages on minor thoroughfares in the rear of the board walk which were either partially or completely destroyed.

ALL FRAME STRUCTURES. The fire was discovered shortly after 9 o'clock this morning, and for nearly five hours the flames raged with such violence as to threaten the city with destruction. All of the burned buildings were frame structures, and the flames, fanned by a strong west wind, swept along the beach with amazing rapidity. The Tarleton Hotel was soon a pile of smoking debris, and the flames fed on the small stores and booths between Illinois and Kentucky avenues until they reached the Stratford Hotel, which was soon enveloped. The fiery tongue leaped to the Kentucky avenue, and in a few minutes the New Holland, the Bryn Mawr, the Eyard and the Stickney, and three small buildings near the beach, were doomed. The local fire department worked well and willingly, but it was unable to cope with the flames, and it was found necessary to send to Philadelphia and Camden for aid. The former city sent three engines and the latter two. The engines were brought here on two special trains furnished by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and they made the run of nearly thirty miles in fifty minutes. Their presence here was of great assistance, and in half an hour it was not until an hour after their arrival that the fire could be said to be thoroughly under control.

Just as the special train bearing the Philadelphia firemen arrived, a burning brand set fire to the center of the board walk, and the flames, which had been confined to the beach, broke out in a new direction. The firemen succeeded in confining the flames to Marine Hall, which was situated in the center of the pier. This structure was destroyed, bisecting the pier. GUESTS WERE EXCITED. During the progress of the fire the widest excitement prevailed among the guests of the hotels which later became a prey to the flames. With the exception of the Tarleton and the Bryn Mawr all of the hostilities were open for the season, and most of them were fairly well filled. In the most cases the guests had sufficient time to pack their trunks and grips, and those who did not do this carried their personal effects to places of safety in the best manner possible. The beach appeared to be the most suitable depository, and many nondescript heaps of clothing, bedding and furniture appeared in the sand. This rendered extra vigilance necessary on the part of the police. The members of the volunteer fire department acted as special policemen, and Company L, National Guard of New Jersey, was called out to preserve order.

foot of Young's pier but the iron supports. This is the case with the walk that is mostly used by promenaders. The Dunlop Hotel and Beach House, massive brick structures at Tennessee avenue and the beach, were in grave danger when the conflagration was at its height. The employees of both houses played streams of water upon the buildings from all sides, and in this way doubtless prevented the further spread of the flames.

All of the guests of the burned hotels, who were forced to seek other quarters, have been cared for. Those who had been stopping at the Luray were given rooms at the new Hotel Marlborough, which is under the same management. Others registered at various hotels and boarding houses.

SIGHTSEERS OUT. It was 3 o'clock before the firemen were convinced that there was no further danger, and then the visiting fire-engine companies returned to Philadelphia and Camden. To-night the scene of the fire was visited by nearly every person in the city, and the policemen and soldiers were busy keeping the crowds at a safe distance from the smoldering ruins. Numerous express wagons, which had been in operation since early in the day carting recovered baggage to places more safe than the streets and the beach, were kept busy at work until a late hour.

Mayor Story was not in the city when the fire broke out, having gone to Trenton with a delegation from here to urge Governor Murphy to sign the new Atlantic City charter. The Governor has declined signing the charter because of certain conflicting clauses. The charter, among other things, provides for more strict building laws. While the delegation was en route to Trenton, the Governor immediately signed the charter. A special meeting of the City Council was held to-night to take action on the fire and arrange for the rebuilding of the burned portion of the board walk.

The Morris Guards, a local military organization, were to-night sworn in as special policemen, and were placed on guard with the members of Company L at the scene of the fire.

Charles Frailing, proprietor of the Academy of Music and a drug store in the building, to-night said he was the heaviest individual loser by the fire. He placed his loss at upwards of \$125,000, and said he carried \$10,000 insurance. He was not prepared to say whether he would rebuild.

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ACCUSED OF ATROCITIES

MACEDONIANS CHARGED WITH SKINNING A TURKISH PRISONER ALIVE.

Whole Balkan Region Alleged to Be in a Ferment—Encounters Said to Be Frequent.

LONDON, April 3.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Sofia, Bulgaria, says: "It is reported that fourteen revolutionary bands crossed the frontier into Macedonia during the past few days. They were well armed and provisioned. A party of Turks recently ambushed 200 Bulgarian outlaws in the mountains of Kirzev, killing several of the band and capturing the remainder. The Macedonians are accused of horrible atrocities, of which it is hard to obtain information. It is reported that they skinned one Turk alive, stripped the skin and carried it about as a trophy."

VIENNA, April 3.—The Neue Presse reports a serious and organized rebellion among the Serbian inhabitants of the northern villages of Turkey. The insurgents are known as old Serbian rebels. They are well armed and well supplied with ammunition. They have been active in the region of the Danube and the Balkans. Encounters have been reported from other places, and the paper in which several men were killed or wounded.

NEW NATIONAL BANKS

OVER 900 ORGANIZED SINCE THE 14TH OF MARCH, 1900.

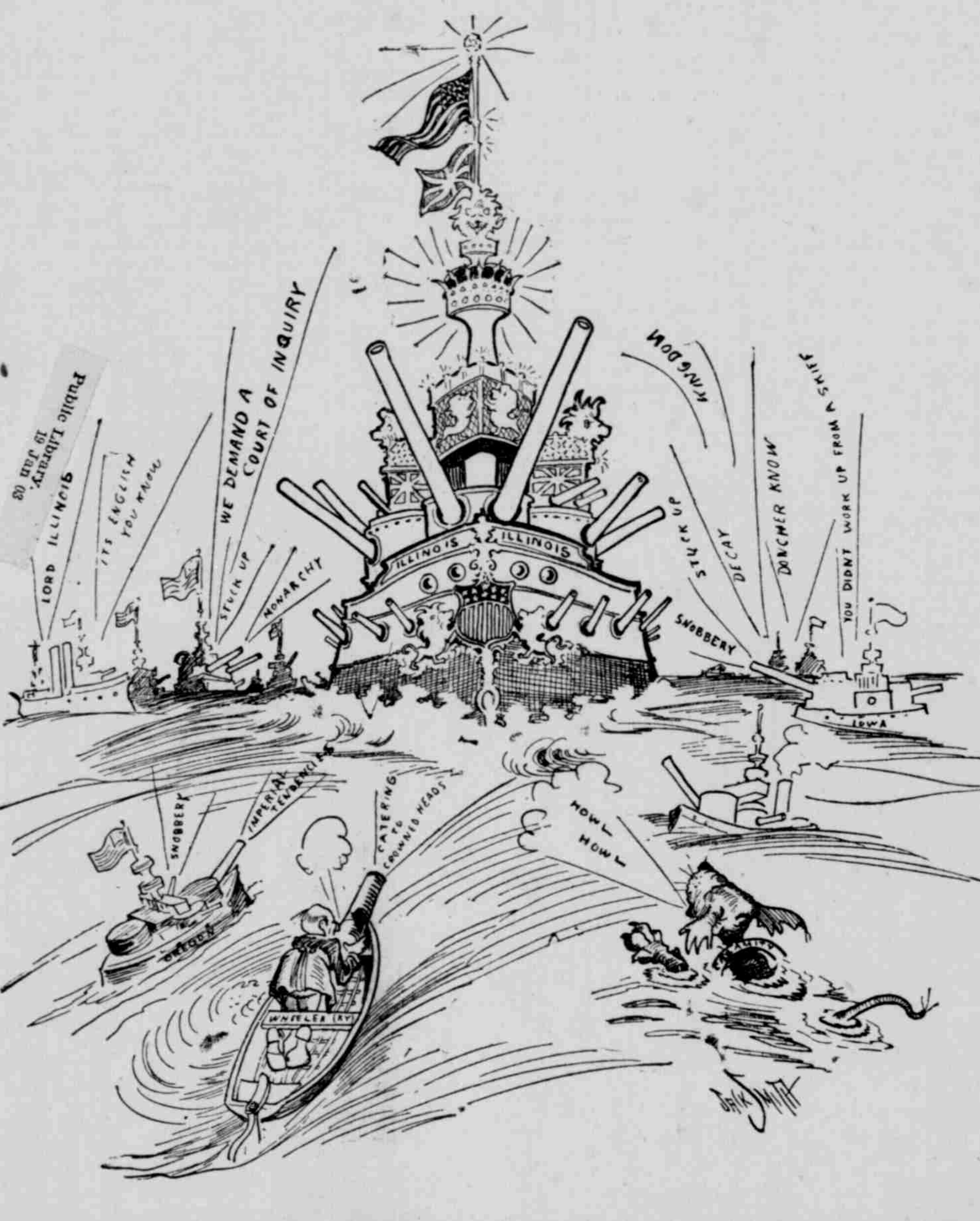
Total Capitalization \$50,209,000, and Amount of Bonds Deposited to Secure Circulation \$13,339,500.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—A statement prepared in the office of the controller of the currency shows that during the period beginning March 14, 1900, (the date of the passage of the act authorizing the organization of national banks, with minimum capital of \$5,000, etc.), and terminating on March 31, 1902, there were added to the system 919 national banking associations, with capital of \$50,209,000 and bond deposits as security for circulation of \$13,339,500. Included in this number were 121 banks, with capital of \$5,000,000, representing conversion of state banks; 290 with capital of \$15,000,000, reorganization of state or private banks liquidated for that purpose, and 508 banks with capital of \$25,000,000, primary organizations. In other words a trifle over 55 per cent. of the banks organized were of the conversion or reorganization type, and the remainder conversions or reorganizations.

Classified by capital, it is shown that 611 banks, with aggregate capital of \$16,000,000, were of the class authorized by the act of March 14, 1900, namely, with individual capital of less than \$50,000, and 208 with aggregate capital of \$13,265,000, with individual capital of \$50,000 or over. Of the converted state banks eighty-one, with aggregate capital of \$2,175,000, were of the smaller class, and forty, with total capital of \$3,000,000, of the larger class. Comparing conditions March 14, 1900, with March 31, 1902, it is shown that there has been a net increase in number of banks of 965. The capital has increased from \$16,000,000 to \$50,209,000, or \$34,209,000, and the circulation from \$13,339,500 to \$13,339,500, or \$0. Comparing the conditions of March 14, 1900, with March 31, 1902, it is shown that there has been a net increase in number of banks of 965. The capital has increased from \$16,000,000 to \$50,209,000, or \$34,209,000, and the circulation from \$13,339,500 to \$13,339,500, or \$0.

WE MAY HAVE ANOTHER NAVY JEALOUSY DEMONSTRATION.

NOTE—The Illinois, alone, will be sent to England to represent the United States Navy in the Coronation Exercises.



OIL TAX BILL PASSED

ADOPTED BY THE SENATE, 39 TO 31, AFTER A LIVELY DISCUSSION.

Provisions of the Measure, Which Differs Materially from the One Received by Senators.

BIG MAJORITY IN THE HOUSE

REVENUE CUTTER SERVICE BILL ADOPTED BY VOTE OF 135 TO 49.

Measure that is Intended to Promote Efficiency and Give Officers a Better Standing.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—At the conclusion of a lively debate to-day the Senate passed the oleomargarine bill by a vote of 39 to 31. The discussion was largely in the nature of a reinforcement of arguments previously advanced. Mr. Spooner, of Wisconsin, made the principal speech, maintaining that Congress had ample authority to enact the proposed legislation because it was in the interest of the people. In an earnest protest against the measure Mr. Vest, of Missouri, held that Congress was invading the powers of the States. Mr. Scott, of West Virginia, moved to recommit the measure to the committee, holding that it was unsatisfactory to many senators and ought to be perfected. The motion was defeated 35 to 37. During the afternoon a perfect flood of telegrams poured into the Senate from all parts of the country urging senators either to support or to oppose the measure.

The measure as passed by the Senate differs in some respects from that passed by the House of Representatives. It provides that oleomargarine and kindred products shall be subject to all the laws and regulations of any State or Territory or the District of Columbia into which they are transported, whether in original packages or otherwise; that any person who sells oleomargarine and kindred products for the use of others, except to his own family, who shall mix with it any artificial coloration that causes it to look like butter shall be held to be a manufacturer and shall be subject to the tax provided by existing law; that upon oleomargarine colored so as to resemble butter a tax of 10 cents a pound shall be levied, but upon oleomargarine not colored the tax shall be one-fourth of 1 cent per pound; that upon adulterated butter a tax of 10 cents a pound shall be levied, and upon all process or renovated butter the tax shall be one-fourth of 1 cent per pound; that any manufacturer of process or renovated butter shall pay an annual tax of \$100, the whole of which shall be paid in advance, and the balance shall be paid in installments; that the measure provides regulations for the collection of the tax, and prescribes minutely how the various products are to be prepared for market.

In one of the most interesting speeches of the day Mr. Spooner said it was idle to suppose that the present federal or state laws on the subject of oleomargarine had been effective. In fact, the existing federal law really had been an aid in the defrauding of the consumer. Mr. Spooner maintained that Congress had the power, which it frequently had exercised, to levy a tax upon an article not merely for revenue, but for the general public welfare. He insisted as a tax of that kind the tax of 10 cents a pound upon oil used for smoking and the tax placed upon lottery tickets. It was manifest, he contended, that those taxes were not levied for the purpose of raising revenue, but expressly for another and clearly evident purpose.

At 3 o'clock Mr. Scott, of West Virginia, moved that the bill be recommitted to the committee. His object was, he said, that the measure might be perfected, because as it stood it was unsatisfactory to many senators. The motion was lost—35 to 37—as follows: Yeas—Aldrich, Bacon, Bailey, Bate, Berry, Blackburn, Carmack, Clark of Montana, Clark of Wyoming, Clay, Culberson, Dryden, Dubois, Foster of Louisiana, Gibson, Helfield, Jones of Nevada, McNary, McLaughlin of Mississippi, McLaughlin of South Carolina, Mallory, Martin, Millard, Patterson, Pettus, Rawlins, Scott, Simmons, Stewart, Tamm, Teller, Turner, West, Wellington, Wetmore—35. Nays—Allison, Burnham, Burrows, Burton, Clapp, Cullop, Deboe, Dietrich, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Foraker, Foster of Washington, Frye, Gallinger, Gamble, Hale, Hanna, Hansbrough, Harris, Hawley, Keen, Kearns, Kittredge, Lodge, McComas, McCumber, McMillan, Mason, Mitchell, Nelson, Penrose, Perkins, Platt of Connecticut, Pritchard, Proctor, Quarles, Spooner—37.

Mr. Harris then offered an amendment placing a tax of 10 cents a pound on adulterated butter and a tax of one-quarter of 1 cent a pound on process or renovated butter and providing regulations for the collection of taxes. It was adopted, 44 to 26. An amendment offered by Mr. Harris was agreed to providing that wholesalers who vend no other oleomargarine or butterine except that which a tax of one-fourth of 1 cent a pound is laid shall pay \$200, and retail dealers of the same \$5. Mr. Money, on behalf of the minority of the committee on agriculture, offered a substitute for the bill. It was rejected, 29 to 31. The bill as amended then was passed—39 to 31—the detailed vote being as follows: Yeas—Allison, Burnham, Burrows, Burton, Clapp, Cullop, Deboe, Dietrich, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Foraker, Foster of Washington, Frye, Gallinger, Gamble, Hale, Hanna, Hansbrough, Harris, Hawley, Keen, Kearns, Kittredge, Lodge, McComas, McCumber, McMillan, Mason, Mitchell, Nelson, Penrose, Perkins, Platt of Connecticut, Pritchard, Proctor, Quarles, Spooner—39. Nays—Aldrich, Bacon, Bailey, Bate, Berry, Blackburn, Carmack, Clark of Montana, Clark of Wyoming, Culberson, Dryden, Dubois, Foster of Louisiana, Gibson, Helfield, McNary, McLaughlin of Mississippi, McLaughlin of South Carolina, Mallory, Martin, Millard, Patterson, Pettus, Rawlins, Scott, Simmons, Stewart, Tamm, Teller, Turner, West, Wellington, Wetmore—31.

WILL USE HOME STONE

LITTLE DOUBT ABOUT THE INDIANAPOLIS PUBLIC BUILDING.

Contract Probably Will Go to Pierce on His Bid of \$1,207,900 for Indiana Limestone.

RANKIN'S RECOMMENDATIONS

TO BE MADE TO THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT NEXT WEEK.

Unfavorable Report on the Nomination of Captain Crozier to Be Chief of Bureau of Ordnance.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal. WASHINGTON, April 3.—Architect Rankin, of the firm of Rankin & Kellogg, of Philadelphia, architects for the new Indianapolis federal building, will arrive in Washington on Monday or Tuesday with the bids and turn them over to the board of awards, together with the recommendations of the architects. It is believed almost beyond doubt that the contract will go to Pierce on his bid of \$1,207,900 for Indiana Limestone.

The public buildings and grounds committee of the House returned from Toledo and Cleveland this morning, and in a speech before the Builders' Exchange Club of the latter city yesterday afternoon Chairman Mercer, of the committee, said: "Cleveland and Indianapolis have been the two most sensible cities in the United States so far as asking for public buildings is concerned. They waited until they knew what they wanted. Other cities rushed in and demanded that their buildings be built immediately, and as a result the accommodations are now inadequate on account of the rapid growth of the cities. Indianapolis and Cleveland, having waited until it was possible to judge what the growth of the city was liable to be, will be provided with substantial buildings which will accommodate the business of the office for years and years to come, and they will be monuments for the government and citizens of the cities to be proud of."

The committee wrestling with the question of providing and distributing boxes for rural free delivery patrons has decided to give all the box manufacturers a hearing. This will begin to-morrow. This does not necessarily mean that the present list of approved boxes will be extended. It will result in the formation of a policy, and the kind of boxes will be considered later. The main problem is to cheapen the cost as well as secure satisfactory boxes. It is admitted now by the makers that the selling cost is so great on account of the methods and the scramble; that the prices obtained are not as low as they should be. If the cost of selling and distribution could be reduced it would be of immediate benefit to the patrons, and this is what the committee is striving for.

"What do you think of Washington?" asked Representative Steele, of Indiana, of a small nephew who is visiting him. "Not much," replied the nephew. "I've been here two days, and I haven't seen Uncle Sam or Mark Hanna yet."

Enoch G. Hogate, of Danville, is in the city, and to-day presented to the Department of Justice his indorsements for judge of the United States District Court to succeed Judge Baker.

The Capital National Bank of Indianapolis has been approved as a reserve agent for the First National Bank of Petersburg, Ind.

The Senate committee on military affairs to-day authorized favorable reports on the nomination of Col. George L. Giesler to be chief of engineers, and Col. George B. Davis to be judge advocate general, and an unfavorable report on the nomination of Capt. William Crozier to be chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, all with the rank of brigadier general. The reason why an exception was made in Crozier's case is found in the fact that he is charged with being interested in certain ordnance patents. There also was technical objection to Captain Crozier's confirmation, the senators who opposed him contending that the law impliedly, if not explicitly, prohibits the appointment to the position of chief of the Ordnance Bureau of an officer holding rank below that of lieutenant colonel. There was a sharp division in the committee, and some of the members broke out strongly for the propriety of the nomination.

When the Senate met in executive session, later in the day, Senator Hawley made an adverse report on Captain Crozier's nomination. The adverse action on this nomination carries with it like action upon the nomination of Lieut. J. E. Hoffer to succeed Captain Crozier as a captain of ordnance.

The President to-day sent the following nomination to the Senate: Capt. Edward H. Browne, First Infantry, major; Edward J. Bloom, at large, second lieutenant of infantry; William R. Akers, receiver of public money at Alliance, Neb.

The House committee on appropriations to-day reported the fortifications appropriation bill. It appropriates \$8,662,455, which is \$801,556 less than the last act. With the appropriations in this bill \$52,355,720 of the \$58,222,222 included in the last act of the scheme of seacoast defenses will have been appropriated. The more important items in the bill are: For gun and mortar batteries, \$2,000,000, and for armament and fortifications, \$6,662,455.

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BASELESS STORIES

NOTHING TO SUPPORT DANISH WEST INDIES BRIBERY ALLEGATIONS.

Abner McKinley, Col. Brown and Mr. Gardner Say Their Acquaintance with Christmas Was Casual.

HAD NO DEALINGS WITH HIM

TESTIMONY OF LAWYER HANSEN BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

Was Counsel for Captain Christmas, Whose Alleged Charges Were Aired by Mr. Richardson.

EVIDENCE OF LAWYER EVANS

WHO WAS PROMISED \$50,000 BY THE PENNILESS CHRISTMAS.

How the Latter Is Alleged to Have Been Bled—A Peppery Letter—Mr. Stone's Statement.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—The investigation of charges in connection with the Danish West Indies negotiations was resumed to-day by the House special committee having it in charge. Among those present when the hearing began were Abner McKinley, Col. W. C. Brown, Carl Fischer Hansen and Representative Gardner, of New Jersey.

Mr. McKinley was the first witness. He gave his residence at New York, his business that of a lawyer, and in response to Chairman Daisell's inquiry, he said he was a brother of the late President. Asked as to whether he knew Captain Christmas, the witness said he had met him once in the most casual way in the lobby of the Manhattan Hotel, New York. He never held any conference with him of any kind or character.

"Was there any talk of the Danish West Indies?" asked Mr. Daisell. "None whatever, either remotely or otherwise," answered the witness.

Mr. McKinley went on to say that he had never mentioned the matter to the President. He had no meeting with Christmas beyond this casual one, when there was nothing except an exchange of courtesies of the day.

Representative Richardson asked the witness if he knew Mr. Hansen. Mr. McKinley said he had known Hansen for some time, but not in connection with the Christmas case. He had met him at a meeting with Christmas, Hansen had desired to retain him in this matter. In reply the witness said he told Mr. Hansen he would have nothing to do with it. Subsequently when he met Christmas he passed the time by talking to him about the subject matter. Mr. McKinley said he had never had any conversation with them on this transaction or with anyone except Hansen.

GARDNER'S DISCLAIMER. Representative Gardner followed with a statement disclaiming all knowledge of Christmas except of the most casual character. Some one, he said, had asked permission to present a lady and gentleman at his (Gardner's) room. There was a brief meeting, and the lady and gentleman were introduced. That was the extent of his acquaintance with Christmas. Mr. Gardner said he had taken some interest in the acquisition of the Danish West Indies and had introduced a bill on the subject. But this was before Christmas came to the attention of the committee. He also disclaimed going over the subject with Mr. Evans, who had been mentioned in connection with the matter, and said he had no conversation when inquiries were made as to the prospects of a sale of the Danish Islands.

Mr. Richardson asked if Mr. Gardner knew of the International Press Association. Mr. Gardner said he did; he had been a stockholder in the concern, which at one time represented several New Jersey newspapers.

Col. W. C. Brown testified that he had met Christmas once at the Manhattan Hotel in New York. He had no conversation with him at that time except the usual introduction. He had no business relations with him; none was spoken of at that meeting, which was the only one.

Mr. Hansen, the next witness, gave his business as a lawyer, and said he had met Christmas told him in 1899 of the movement to sell the Danish Islands to the United States and that he had taken an interest in paying liberally in case of a sale. Christmas desired Hansen to act as counsel. Witness called on Abner McKinley and asked him if he would become associate counsel. Mr. McKinley replied that he (Hansen) ought to know the name (McKinley) would not be retained on any negotiation in which the government was concerned. He was not retained on any negotiation in which the government was concerned. He was not retained on any negotiation in which the government was concerned.

Mr. Hansen said he had urged that the acquisition of the islands be made a part of the program of the McKinley administration, but McKinley would have nothing to do with the matter.

WHAT BROWN LEARNED. Later Hansen said he talked with Colonel Brown, and requested him to ask the President if there was any intention of buying the Danish Islands. Colonel Brown made the inquiry, the witness said, and was referred by the President to Secretary Hay. When Colonel Brown returned to New York he told Mr. Hansen that the United States did intend to buy the islands. Hansen then accepted Christmas's proposition, telling him, however, he desired no compensation except to be appointed attorney for Denmark later if successful.

Mr. Hansen then related what Christmas had told him of coming to Washington and meeting President McKinley, and of going to Copenhagen with Mr. White, the United States secretary of the Embassy in London.

Mr. Hansen also related a street meeting with one of the Seigmans on an occasion when he was progressing well with the negotiations. The witness said Christmas was a man of great energy and ability, and that he had met one of the Seigmans on an occasion when he was progressing well with the negotiations. The witness said Christmas was a man of great energy and ability, and that he had met one of the Seigmans on an occasion when he was progressing well with the negotiations.

Mr. Hansen yielded temporarily to allow Senator Lodge to make a statement. The senator said Christmas had spoken to him about the Danish transfer. Mr. Lodge always had taken an interest in the acquisition of the islands. He told Christmas, however, that there was no use staying here, as the Danish minister would act here, as the Danish minister would act here, as the Danish minister would act here.

Resuming his testimony, Mr. Hansen told of learning later that Christmas had been clothed with authority by Denmark to negotiate the sale of the islands. He said that he had been clothed with authority by Denmark to negotiate the sale of the islands. He said that he had been clothed with authority by Denmark to negotiate the sale of the islands.

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WAITING ON THE POWERS

CHINA AND RUSSIA READY TO SIGN THE MANCHURIAN TREATY.

Its Terms Made Known in Order that Other Nations May Approve it or Offer Opposition.

PEKING, April 3.—The signing of the Russo-Chinese Manchurian convention only awaits the receipt of information as to whether objection to it will be raised by other powers. Since the treaty has been modified as a result of the pressure exerted by the United States, Great Britain and Japan to its present form it is not believed any difficulty on this score will be encountered. As previously cabled, the evacuation of the three Manchurian provinces by Russia is to be carried out in three successive periods of six months from the date of the convention. Various vague conditions, such as "if the state of the country permits" are excluded from the agreement and it is stipulated that the convention be ratified within three months from the day it is signed. China is permitted to maintain whatever force she thinks necessary in Manchuria after the evacuation of that territory. In addition to the preceding covenants Russia agrees if Tien-Tsin is restored to the Chinese within the first six months to vacate Nieu-Chwang at the time this restoration is made. China agrees that no portion of the Nieu-Chwang-Shan-Hai-Kwan Railway be allowed to fall into the hands of other powers, and that the railway be returned to China. China agrees also to reimburse Russia in the amounts spent in completing the railway and in paying the line during the Russian occupation.

ARMY OFFICERS DROWNED.

Lieutenants H. F. Avery and William Ashbridge Upset in Detroit River.

DETROIT, Mich., April 3.—While returning from a fishing expedition in a small sailboat to-night Lieut. Howard F. Avery, adjutant of the first battalion of the Fourth regiment, stationed at Fort Wayne here, and Second Lieutenant W. Ashbridge were drowned by the overturning of the boat in the river about six hundred yards below the fort. These officers were accompanied by Trumpeter Richard Tunney, who was rescued while clinging to the overturned boat. He is now in the fort hospital in a serious condition, but will recover. These men all saw service in the Philippines and returned with the Fourteenth Regiment about two years ago.

The bodies of the two officers have been recovered, although several boatloads of soldiers from the fort are searching for them. Lieutenant Avery was about twenty-six years of age and married. Lieutenant Ashbridge was about the same age and single.

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